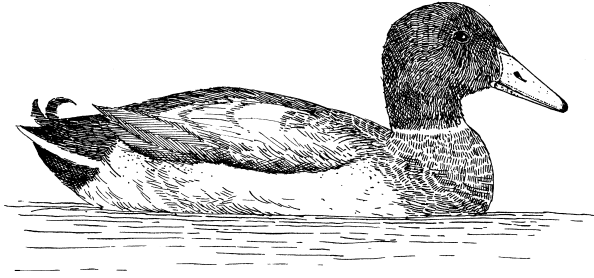


# MassWildlife

## Migratory Bird Regulations for 2003 - 04 Season



### H.I.P. number required for all migratory bird hunting!

Reminder: A 2003 Harvest Information Permit (H.I.P) number is needed for ALL migratory bird hunters for the remainder of the calendar year. This includes woodcock hunters. Beginning Jan. 1, 2004, a 2004 HIP number is required. The number is good for the entire calendar year and is free. You need a hunting license in order to receive an H.I.P. number. CALL 1-800-WETLAND.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
**Division of Fisheries & Wildlife**

251 Causeway Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02114  
(617) 626-1590

Wayne F. MacCallum, *Director*

**Office of Law Enforcement**

1-800-632-8075 (to report violations) or 617-727-6398

APPROVED BY STATE PURCHASING AGENT  
9 / 03 20M

### The following is a combination of Federal and Massachusetts Migratory Game Bird Laws and Regulations in force from September 2003 -March 2004

**BAITING** - No person shall take migratory game birds by baiting (placing corn or any other food to constitute a lure or enticement) or hunting over a baited area. An area is considered baited for 10 days after removal of the bait. It is not necessary for the hunter to know that the area is baited to be in violation of this section.

**BOW & ARROW** - Lawful for hunting migratory game birds.

**DRESSING** - The head and one fully-feathered wing must remain attached to each migratory game bird while it is transported to the hunter's home or preservation facility.

**DRIVING** - A person shall not hunt migratory game birds from or in connection with a motor driven land conveyance, aircraft or any kind of motor or sail boat used in concentrating or driving birds either for himself or for others.

**ELECTRIC CALLS** - No person shall take migratory game birds using pre-recorded calls or sounds or any electronic imitations of calls.

**FALCONRY** - All permitted ducks and coot may be taken by falconry October 5 - January 20. Limits in falconry are 3 daily, 6 in possession singly or in aggregate. Falconry closed Sunday.

**IMPORTATION** - No person shall import migratory game birds killed in any foreign country except Canada unless such birds are dressed, drawn, and the head and feet removed. One fully-feathered wing must remain on each bird transported between port of entry and the hunter's home or preservation facility. No person shall import migratory game birds belonging to another. For further information on migratory game birds killed in another country, consult Title 50 CFR 20.61-20.66.

**LIVE DECOYS** - No person shall hunt migratory game birds with the aid of live decoys or domesticated fowl of any kind. Such fowl must be removed for 10 consecutive days prior to hunting and be confined in an enclosure which reduces the audibility of their calls and conceals them from the sight of migratory waterfowl.

**NON-TOXIC SHOT** - Is required for all waterfowl and coot hunting - no lead shot in possession. Waterfowl hunters must use non-toxic shot up to and including BBB shot while hunting waterfowl. Steel, bismuth, tungsten-iron, tungsten-polymer, tungsten-matrix, Hevi-metal and tungsten-nickel-iron shot are legal.

**PROHIBITED DEVICES** - No one shall hunt migratory birds using a sinkbox, trap, snare, net, crossbow, rifle, pistol, swivel gun, punt gun, battery gun, machine gun, fish hook, poison, drug, explosive or stupefying substance.

**SHIPMENT** - Any package containing migratory game birds must be marked on the outside with the name and address of the sender and recipient and number of birds, by species, contained inside.

**SHOTGUN** - Migratory game birds may be hunted with shotguns no larger than 10 gauge, fired from the shoulder. Shotguns capable of holding more than 3 shells may not be used unless plugged with a one-piece filler which limits the gun's total capacity to 3 shells and which cannot be removed without disassembling the gun.

**STAMPS** - Each waterfowl hunter 16 years or older must carry on his person a valid federal waterfowl stamp and each hunter 15 years or older must carry a valid Massachusetts waterfowl stamp. Both stamps must be signed across the face in ink. Stamps are required for hunting any ducks (incl. seaducks) geese or brant but not required for hunting rails, snipe, woodcock or American coot.

Federal stamps are valid July 1 - June 30

Massachusetts stamps are valid Jan. 1 - Dec. 31

**TAGGING** - Any migratory game birds not in the custody of the hunter must be tagged with the hunter's signature, address, total number of birds by species, and dates such birds were killed. No person shall receive or have in custody another's migratory game birds unless such birds are properly tagged.

**VEHICLES** - No person shall hunt migratory game birds from or with the aid of a motor vehicle or other motor driven land conveyance or aircraft except that paraplegics may take game birds from a stationary motor vehicle or other land conveyance. Further, no person may hunt from or by means of any motor boat or sailboat unless the motor has been completely shut off and/or sails furled and all progress therefrom has ceased. However, a hunter may pick up or retrieve dead or crippled birds from a craft *under power* and may shoot injured birds from powered craft in coastal waters seaward of the first upstream bridge.

**WANTON WASTE** - All migratory birds killed or crippled shall be retrieved if possible, immediately killed, and retained by the hunter as part of the daily bag.

**Note:** No one may take migratory birds except during days and hours open to hunting as described herein. No one shall take more than one daily bag limit per day nor possess more than one daily bag limit in the field or while returning to vehicle, hunting camp, home, etc.

**YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT** - Youth ages 12 - 15. Ducks, coots, mergansers and geese. Youth must be accompanied by an adult hunter with MA license and waterfowl stamp. One firearm only. Adult may not hunt and may carry firearm only when unloaded and cased. No license or stamp needed for youths ages 12 - 14. License and state waterfowl stamp needed for youths age 15. No federal stamp required. All other hunting regulations apply.

**REPORT ALL BANDED BIRDS - Call: 1-800-327-BAND**

## 2003 - 04 MIGRATORY BIRD REGULATIONS

SEASON	DATES		BAG	POSSESSION
Sora Rail	Sep. 1 - Nov. 8		5	5
Virginia Rail	Sep. 1 - Nov. 8		10	10
Snipe	Sep. 1 - Dec. 15		8	16
Woodcock	Oct. 16 - Oct. 25		3	6
	Oct. 27 - Nov. 15		3	6
Ducks <sup>A</sup>	Duck Dates	Pintail/Canvasback Dates		
Berkshire:	Oct. 14 - Dec. 22	Oct. 14 - Nov. 17	6*	12*
Central:	Oct. 15 - Nov. 29	Oct. 15 - Nov. 18	6*	12*
	Dec. 19 - Jan. 10		6*	12*
Coastal:	Oct. 15 - Oct. 25	Oct. 15 - Oct. 25	6*	12*
	Nov. 21 - Jan. 17	Nov. 21 - Dec. 13	6*	12*
American Coot	Same as ducks		15	30
Mergansers <sup>B</sup>	Same as ducks		5*	10*
Regular Canada Goose				
Berkshire:	Oct. 25 - Dec. 16		2	4
Central:	Oct. 15 - Nov. 29		2	4
	Dec. 19 - Jan. 10		2	4
Coastal:	Oct. 15 - Oct. 25		2	4
	Nov. 21 - Jan. 17		2	4
Early Canada Goose (statewide)	Sep. 2 - Sep. 25		5	10
Late Canada Goose (Central)	Jan. 19 - Feb. 14		5	10
(North Coastal) <sup>C</sup>	Jan. 19 - Feb. 14		5	10
Snow & Blue Geese	Same as ducks		15	30
Late Snow / Blue Goose				
(Central/Coastal) <sup>C</sup>	Same as Canada Geese		15	30
Sea Ducks <sup>D</sup> (Scoter, Eider, Long-tailed duck (oldsquaw))				
	Oct. 6 - Jan. 20		7**	14**
Brant	Nov. 10 - Jan. 17		3	6
Falconry (Ducks & Coot only)	Oct. 6 - Jan. 20		3*	6*
Youth Waterfowl Hunt (statewide)	Oct. 11 & Oct. 13		special provisions apply	

\* Singly or in the aggregate

\*\* Singly or in the aggregate, no more than 4 scoter, 4 eider(1 hen), 4 long-tailed duck (oldsquaw) in the daily bag.

A. The daily bag may contain no more than:

Mallard	4 (only 2 female)	Canvasback	1	Pintail	1
Scaup	3	Fulvous whistling	1	Harlequin	NONE
Wood Duck	2	Mottled	1	Hooded Merganser	1
Redhead	2	Black Duck	1	All other duck species	4

**Possession limits** are double the daily bag. (e.g. Mallards — possession 8 of which only 4 may be female).

B. Daily bag of mergansers may not include more than 1 hooded merganser; no more than 2 hooded in possession.

C. North Coastal Zone for the **late Canada Goose** season is that portion of the Coastal Zone north of the Cape Cod Canal to the New Hampshire line.

D. Scoter, eider and long-tailed duck (oldsquaw) during the open period other than open season for other ducks may be hunted **only** in coastal waters and rivers and streams seaward of the first upstream bridge.

**Non-toxic shot** required for all hunting of waterfowl and American coot statewide.

**Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to sunset.**

**P.F.D.** - Anyone aboard a canoe or kayak from Sept. 15 - May 15 must wear a life jacket or vest.

**ZONE LINES** - During the 2003-04 waterfowl hunting season the state will be divided into the following three zones:

**Berkshire** - Westward of a line running from the Vermont boundary, southward along I-91 to Route 9, West on Route 9 to Route 10, South on Route 10 to Route 202 and South on Route 202 to the Connecticut line.

**Central** - Eastward of the Berkshire zone line and westward of a boundary which will run from the New Hampshire line southward on I-95 to Route 1, South on Route 1 to I-93, South on I-93 to Route 3, South on Route 3 to Route 6, West on Route 6 to Route 28, West on Route 28 to I-195, West on Route I-195 to the Rhode Island line except that the waters and the lands 150 yards above the high water mark of the Assonet River to the Route 24 bridge and the Taunton River to the Center Street/Elm Street bridge shall be in the Coastal Zone.

**Coastal** - Eastward and southward of the Central zone line to the coast.

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This publication is a summary of state and federal regulations concerning the hunting of migratory birds. The actual federal regulations may be found in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 20, with some additional regulations in other locations. For additional information on federal regulations contact the Resident Agent-in-Charge, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement, 70 Everett Ave., Suite 315, Chelsea, MA 02150, phone: (617) 889-6616. State regulations may be found in the Code of Mass. Regulations, 321 CMR 3.02(2) and in several sections of Ch.131 MGL. Special regulations may apply on National Wildlife Refuges open to hunting. A violation of state regulations is also a violation of federal law.



**MassWildlife**